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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/458,410	12/10/1999	Mohammad Peyravian	P-4541.004	8813
24112	7590	05/10/2005	EXAMINER	
COATS & BENNETT, PLLC P O BOX 5 RALEIGH, NC 27602			MOORTHY, ARAVIND K	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2131		

DATE MAILED: 05/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/458,410	PEYRAVIAN ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Aravind K. Moorthy	2131

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 October 2004.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 10 December 1999 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is in response to the amendment filed on 4 October 2004.
2. Claims 1-19 are pending in the application.
3. Claims 1-19 have been rejected.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Dickinson et al U.S. Patent No. 6,853,988 B1.

As to claim 1, Dickinson et al discloses a method for time-stamping a digital document comprising:

- a. receiving identifying data associated with a document D at an outside agency [column 28, lines 22-39];
- b. creating at the outside agency a first receipt based on the identifying data [column 28, lines 22-39];
- c. creating at the outside agency a second receipt based on a time indication that indicates when the document was received at the outside agency [column 28, lines 22-39];
- d. inserting a linking value into the first and second receipts that links the identifying data in the first receipt with the time indication in the second receipt [column 23 line 53 to column 24 line 3];
- e. certifying the first and second receipts at the outside agency using a cryptographic signature scheme [column 27, lines 16-25].

As to claims 2 and 10, Dickinson et al discloses that the identifying data comprises a digital representation of at least a portion of the document [column 27, lines 6-16].

As to claims 3 and 11, Dickinson et al discloses that the identifying data comprises a digital sequence derived by application of a deterministic function to at least a portion of the document [column 27, lines 6-16].

As to claims 4 and 12, Dickinson et al discloses that the digital sequence is a hash value derived by application of a one-way hashing function to at least a portion of the document [column 27, lines 6-16].

As to claims 5 and 13, Dickinson et al discloses that the first receipt includes at least a portion of the identifying data and a nonce [column 23 line 53 to column 24 line 3].

As to claims 6 and 14, Dickinson et al discloses that the first receipt includes a digital sequence generated by applying a pre-determined function to the identifying data [column 48, lines 11-38].

As to claims 7 and 15, Dickinson et al discloses that one of the first and second receipts includes a user identification number associated with a user [column 18, lines 36-56].

As to claims 8 and 16, Dickinson et al discloses that one of the first and second receipts includes a sequential record number [column 28, lines 22-39].

As to claim 9, Dickinson et al discloses a method for time-stamping a digital document comprising:

- a. transmitting identifying data associated with the document to an outside agency [column 28, lines 22-39];
- b. receiving from the outside agency a first receipt signed by the outside agency using a cryptographic signature scheme, the first receipt including a first digital sequence generated based on the identifying data [column 27, lines 16-25];
- c. receiving from the outside agency a second receipt signed by the outside agency using a cryptographic signature scheme, the second receipt containing a second digital sequence based on a time indication that indicates

Art Unit: 2131

when the document was received at the outside agency [column 28, lines 22-39];
and

d. wherein the first and second receipts include a linking value that links
the identifying data in the first receipt with the time indication in the second
receipt [column 23 line 53 to column 24 line 3].

As to claim 17, Dickinson et al discloses that a common cryptographic signature scheme
is used to sign both the first and second receipts [column 15, lines 27-48].

As to claim 18, Dickinson et al discloses that different cryptographic signature schemes
are used to sign the first and second receipts [column 15, lines 27-48].

As to claim 19, Dickinson et al discloses that the linking value is a nonce value [column
23 line 53 to column 24 line 3].

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this
Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a).
Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE
MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO
MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after
the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period
will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37
CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

Art Unit: 2131

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aravind K. Moorthy whose telephone number is 571-272-3793. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz R. Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Aravind K Moorthy
May 2, 2005


AYAZ SHEIKH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100